

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. - 5. (Cancelled)

6. (New) A self-leveling system that serves to prevent damage to the roadway surrounding a gully-hole and a street sewer, the system comprising:

a frame having an upper portion and a lower portion; and

a tubular section;

wherein the upper portion of the frame has a horizontal wall supported on the ground, wherein the horizontal wall serves as a foundation of the frame and transmits the forces applied thereto,

wherein an upper extremity of the tubular section is engaged inside the lower portion of the frame,

wherein the frame is free to displace vertically and angularly, and is capable of sliding along an external wall of the tubular section so as to allow the frame and displace in the vertical direction as a result of the expansion of the ground occasioned by the frost or as a result of settling of the ground, and

wherein the lower portion of the frame has an inclined wall which allows the frame to be capable of positioning itself at an angle relative to the axis of the tubular section as a result of ground movement or as to follow the slope of the ground.

7. (New) The self-leveling system as defined in claim 6, wherein the upper portion of the frame has a downwardly inclined internal wall which serves to direct run-off water toward the tubular section.

8. (New) The self-leveling system as defined in claim 6, wherein the upper and lower portions of the frame each has an aperture for receiving run-off water, the aperture of the upper portion being eccentric relative to the aperture of the lower portion.

9. (New) A method of installing a self-leveling sewer which comprises a frame and a tubular section. the method comprising:

(a) coupling a lower extremity of the tubular section to an extremity of a conduit of the sewage system;

(b) compacting granular material around the tubular section such that an upper extremity of the tubular section extends above the level of the granular material;

(c) creating an excavation in the granular material around the tubular section;

(d) inserting the frame into the excavation such that the upper extremity of the tubular section slides into a lower portion of the frame, and an upper portion of the frame is at the level of the granular material;

(e) compacting layers of granular material around the frame; and

(f) positioning a grating.

10. (New) The method as defined in claim 9, wherein the lower portion of the frame has an

inclined wall, and the method further comprises the step of cutting the upper extremity of the tubular section below a lower limit of the inclined wall prior to step (e).

11. (New) The method as defined in claim 9, wherein layers of granular material in step (e) include first and second layers, an elevating frame being positioned between the first and second layers.

12. (New) The method as defined in claim 9, wherein the excavation has a shape and dimensions which conform to the shape and dimensions of the frame.